

terms of health improvements per dollar spent on care. We must also consider the social consequences of that care.

Fifth, we must learn how to better estimate the effects of cost containment measures on treatment cost effectiveness.

Sixth, we must encourage the development of consistent standards for use of evidence in policy debates.

Mr. President, this Congress has worked in a bipartisan fashion to address mental health parity. As policy makers, we can continue to address the needs of the mental health community by working with educators, health plans, employers, and researchers to encourage them to meet these other important objectives. I believe our health care system can meet these goals. However, it requires cooperation from the entire health care community. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to consider the issues of mental health in this broader context; as well as, to continue to educate ourselves on the mental health issues that impact our health system and society as a whole.●

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Yesterday, President Clinton signed the VA/HUD appropriation bill and the Mental Health Parity amendment which was included in the appropriated bill into law. For all of us who worked so hard to achieve passage of the parity amendment, the enactment of the provision represented more than the insurance policy changes that the provision will actually require. Passage of the legislation is a symbol of fairness, progress and hope for millions of Americans and their families who, for far too long, have been victims of discrimination—families who for far too long have been thrust into bankruptcy, or denied access to cost-effective treatments because their illness was a mental illness and not a physical illness like cancer or heart disease. Mental illness has, in one way or another, touched the lives of many of us who work here on Capitol Hill and I am pleased that the 104th Congress was able to take this first and very necessary step toward parity.

I want to take this opportunity to say that while the passage of this amendment was a historic step forward for people with mental illnesses, the amendment was a first step and a first step only. It does not require parity for copayments or deductibles or inpatient days or outpatient visit limits. It also does not include substance abuse services. My State of Minnesota has passed legislation which goes much further than what we were able to accomplish in this Congress. Minnesota requires that health plans provide full parity coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. The cost impact of this legislation in Minnesota has been minimal according to a recent study based on preliminary data.

Without full parity coverage for mental health and substance abuse, health plans will continue to discriminate against individuals and families in need of services. The responsibility for and cost of care will continue to be shifted from the private to the public sector. For children and adolescents, the burden and cost of care will continue to be shifted to the child welfare, education, and juvenile justice systems. These overburdened systems are often not able to provide needed services, and many are forced to go without treatment. This will continue to be the case.

I have seen first hand in my State at facilities like Hazelden and others, the benefits that drug and alcohol treatment can bring to the lives of millions of Americans. Alcohol and other drug addictions effect 10% of American adults and 3 percent of our youth. Untreated addiction last year alone cost this Nation nearly \$167 billion. Ultimately we all bear the cost of delays or gaps in mental health and substance abuse services. Sadly, that fact has not been changed by the passage of Senator DOMENICI's and my amendment.

We have much more work to do and I look forward to consideration of legislation which would provide full parity coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. I am grateful for the advocacy, hard work, and compassion of the mental health and substance abuse community. Without them, we could not have achieved such success this year. This victory was made possible because families and friends of people struggling with mental illnesses were willing to speak out in public. This issue has a human face now and that made it possible to win votes and enact legislation.

I look forward to continuing to work with Senators DOMENICI, KENNEDY and CONRAD to expand coverage for mental health and substance abuse services and I also want to take this moment to thank Senators SIMPSON and KASSEBAUM who will not be here next year but were critical in enabling us to take the first critical step toward parity.●

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY MARKS-PELTZ

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, every day Americans are exposed to much of what is wrong with America and not enough about what is good and right across our Nation and in our communities.

It is in that light that I rise today to speak about a young man in Florida whose compassion and humanity should serve as a reminder to all of us that there is much about America that is good and right—12 year old Jeremy Marks-Peltz of Kendall, FL.

Last year Jeremy was on a boat tour in south Florida and saw the unfortunate plight of homeless people living in cardboard boxes. He decided he wanted to help them, and began organizing a food, clothes and furniture drive for

some of south Florida's homeless charities.

Jeremy went to Bloomingdale's in Miami seeking assistance for his charity drive; they decided to help. Bloomingdale's recently wrote me about Jeremy's efforts and why they got involved.

We receive hundreds of requests from charities for donations through letters, but this was the first time I was face to face with a twelve year old boy wanting to help the needy. It was touching and in a society that some times only remembers the needy during the holidays, it was refreshing.

With Bloomingdale's assistance. Jeremy's desire to make a difference in his community has resulted in a full-scale campaign called, Making a World of Difference, which will run through the year. The campaign, which began in February, consists of an appeal to all of Bloomingdale's customers for donations for the needy, including food, clothing and furniture.

Over the years I have said many times that individuals must play a greater role in the fight to make our communities safer, more prosperous, and simply better places for all of us to live. Jeremy's work to make south Florida a better place for all its residents to live exemplifies that ideal.

John Randolph once wrote, "Life is not so important as the duties of life." Only 12 years old, Jeremy Marks-Peltz has already learned this lesson well. His compassion, commitment, and understanding of what is genuinely important in this world are truly shining examples for all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO FIRST TENNESSEE BANK

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to salute First Tennessee National Corporation, an innovative company that maintains company success by focusing on a family-friendly environment. First Tennessee Bank's success can be attributed in part to the amount of time and effort they put into maintaining a positive employee-company relationship.

Three years ago, First Tennessee developed its Family Matters program to address concerns that involved the work-family relationship. They realized early on that employee job performance did not rely solely on the working conditions at the office. Personal time influenced employees' overall attitude, and in turn, their attitude toward work. First Tennessee adopted a non-traditional work schedule that gives employees more freedom to adjust their schedules around personal needs or family obligations. Family Matters trained managers and supervisors to work with employees who wanted flexible work hours to give them the time they needed without sacrificing job productivity. Variations of the flexible hours differ, but one good example can be seen at First Tennessee's downtown Chattanooga branch office. Richard Grant, Vice President of

Business Development and Manager of the word processing center, was approached by two of his employees in the word processing center who wanted to stagger their work hours and give themselves a day off every other Friday. He agreed, and the women were not only happier, their productivity in their high stress jobs has increased. Now they work longer 4-day weeks one week, followed by a regular 5-day work week the next.

Mr. President, First Tennessee's efforts have paid off. They were recently named the number one family-friendly company by Business Week magazine. This is a fine example of how change and risk-taking are beneficial to the growth of companies. First Tennessee has seen the benefits of its Family Matters program and other family friendly programs in elevated company morale, improved productivity and increased employee tenure.

First Tennessee's interest in improving itself from the inside out is an example to us all that every organization can make improvements. Taking a proactive approach and involving employees in the learning process is a greatly admired advance toward company improvement. First Tennessee has been innovative and is sure to continue to see added improvements and benefits due to its responsibility to its employees as well as its customers.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL WILEY

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I have been privileged in my career in the U.S. Senate, through my work on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to work with many of the great scientific minds of this country. I rise today to pay tribute to one of those scientists with whom I worked especially closely and who was a long-time close personal friend before his death last summer.

Dr. Bill Wiley of the Battelle Memorial Institute built a monumental career and left a huge legacy first and foremost because of his special gifts and training as a fine scientist. His achievements over his 31-year career with Battelle, beginning as a staff research scientist and ending with his position as vice president for Science and Technology, contributed significantly to this country's scientific understanding.

But I believe that the work for which Bill Wiley should and will be best remembered is the concrete result of his vision which is now nearing completion on the banks of the Columbia River in Richland, WA, the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory [EMSL], which will be the jewel of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and which may very well hold the key to this country's Herculean effort to the cleanup of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation and other, similar sites around the country.

Armed only with this vision and his irresponsible charm and enthusiasm, Bill Wiley came to see me several years ago to lay out his plans for EMSL, undaunted by skeptics who had told him at every turn that it might be a good idea, but the Congress was unlikely to embrace such a costly project. I must say that had it been anyone other than Bill Wiley pushing the dream, the skeptics probably would have been right. But Bill not only convinced me that it was worth doing, he persuaded all the other relevant players that not only was it something we could do, but that it was something a great nation should not fail to do. I visited the EMSL facility in its late stages of construction shortly before Bill's death last summer. Anyone who ever harbored doubts about the wisdom of this research facility should go have a look when it opens its doors next month. It will be home to America's finest scientists employing the latest tools doing the best research in the world today. And it is a point of special pride to those of us who were his friends that they will be doing so in the building named in memory of William R. Wiley.

This African-American son of an Oxford, MS, cobbler served his Nation well professionally and as a humanitarian who was never too busy in his career to help the less fortunate who were trying to work their way up the ladder or merely to get to the first rung of the ladder. I know many colleagues join me in expressing our condolences to Bill's loving wife Gus and to his daughter Johari Wiley-Johnson and in expressing our deep gratitude for the paths that Bill Wiley charted and the mark he left behind.●

THE WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION AIRCRAFT TRANSFER ACT

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, late last night the Senate acted to adopt S. 2078, the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act. Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico and I introduced this bill, along with Senator CRAIG with the support of the administration 2 weeks ago. Senator KYL has joined us as a cosponsor, and the bill has been cleared by the Armed Services Committee.

This summer, more acres have burned than in any other fire season in the past 50 years, and unfortunately, this fire season is not over yet. Forest scientists warn us that severe fire seasons are becoming more and more frequent, which is a real cause of concern when rural populations growth is increasing the number of private homes that come into direct contact with fires on Federal lands.

The Forest Service has determined that the existing fleet of aircraft is inadequate to meet Federal obligations to control fire to protect lives, property and resources. The fleet available to them consists currently of 39 planes, two thirds of which are World War II and Korean war era aircraft. An aver-

age of one plane a year is lost to old age or accidents. In meetings with the Armed Service Committee, to which the bill was referred, the Forest Service estimated that they will need access to 20 additional planes over the next 3 to 5 years to maintain service and meet increasing demands.

The most obvious source of these planes is surplus military equipment. But the Forest Service and the Department of Defense have found that the planes are not making it through the system to be available for purchase by private contractors. In response, this bill would give the Secretary of Defense the option of making fire fighting needs a priority for the sale of aircraft excess to the needs of the Department. The Secretary of Defense would do so only in response to a request from the Secretary of Agriculture. The legislation ensures that aircraft could only be available for purchase by companies certified to have Forest Service contracts to fight fires, and requires the Secretary of Defense to develop regulations to enforce restrictions that the aircraft sold would only be used for fire fighting purposes.

We do not have time to waste. It will take an estimated 1 to 2 years to retrofit a plane to be used to fight forest and range fires. By Forest Service estimates, we are already two planes short of an adequate fire fighting fleet. The 1996 fire season has already burned nearly 6 million acres across the country. That is three times the 10 year average, but it is not much more than we saw burn in 1994. These fires are burning more intensely, with devastating effects on the environment, and creating dangerous situations for our citizens. In my own State, local and Federal officials are working around the clock to ensure that the scorched hillsides above Boise to try to minimize the devastating mudslides that are only a few inches of rain away. In the way of those mudslides are schools, homes, the downtown district, and our State capitol building.

I am pleased my colleagues recognized the urgency, and agreed to adopt this legislation to make it possible for the Forest Service to have access to the equipment they need to keep our citizens, their property and our natural resources safe from catastrophic fires.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES M. PIGOTT

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, at the end of this year Mr. Charles M. Pigott will step down as chairman and chief executive officer of PACCAR, Inc. Today I would like to recognize Mr. Pigott for his superb achievements and to pay tribute to a thoughtful and considerate friend.

Guided for nearly three decades by Mr. Pigott's steady hand, PACCAR is now America's largest domestically owned truck manufacturer. His pursuit of quality and innovation has left a lasting imprint on the company and American industry as well.